/276 cont./

511 463 595 412 the Indian who furnished the tribe with square stone grindstones used to polish hard woods and sharpen bone and iron tools was considered particularly /277/ competent, and the benefits of his work relieved him of any farming.

634 66 426 One also finds the improvident. The chief of all the villages of the Río Vermelho, whose host we were at Kejara, for several years had used his authority for personal profit. Numerous were the natives who, having cleared, planted, and harvested for him, thus had possession of veritable mortgages. From this improvidence [126] [439] /sic/ we had to obtain ritual objects considered precious. For Tušawa, who alone was able to dispose of them, had found, in trading them, a means of obtaining clothing, ornaments, weapons, and tools, of which he kept nothing and which served to pay off all [614] his debts. Since in truth his power was limited by the clan chiefs with whom he held endless conferences before each sale, our objects of exchange were undoubtedly used in large part for commissions and jugs of wine which produced agreement.

556 These differences in resources have a personal character. But skill in hunting or fishing and abundance of the products of the [239] earth are secondary elements of good fortune. A more hereditary type of wealth is constituted by pendants of ounce teeth or pins of macaco teeth, or also the long belts made of small fragments of tucum nuts, armadillo scales, and shells, which no present, no matter how sumptuous, will induce a woman to part with and which are in fact the result of the labors and hunts of many generations. 556 123 One day we met a woman in festival costume who was wearing a particularly fine pin on her neck (Pl. X, A, in background /see p. 48/). Confronted with a mountain of presents, she left without saying a word, and a few minutes later we saw her return without the precious jewel which she never wore again during our stay. [152] After many efforts we were able to obtain another, less fine example, but as soon as the transaction became known, it provoked real fury among the feminine element in the village, which did not spare us [428] any insults. These ornaments seem to be passed on from mother or grandmother to daughter or granddaughter by deed of gift.